LITERARY NEWS, VIEWS AND CRITICISM

NEW BOOKS.

A Romance of the Slams.

The heroes in Mr. Robert Halifax's slum stories have a provoking habit of athletes of the "submerged" part of We recall how the preternaturally agile and darting young fellow called the "Cobra." in the grimly shaded and vividly eventful novel entitled "The Borderland," knocked out the heavyweight settlement worker, who was afterward strangled by the pasty faced rufflan of middle age whose person sagged in consequence of his years and his habits. It is the feeling of a reader that a hero ought to live up to his physical possibilities. The settlement worker was muscularly much superior to the "Cobra" or to the pastry faced man. He had a hero's training and skill; was fitted to be preserved and triumphant; yet was "done up" as we have indicated. In Mr. Halifax's new novel, "A Slice of Life" (E. P. Dutton and Company) the young curate

objectionable humiliation.

on self defence advise, but this was not looks as though she were to rise above "This was only a cheap feint, her selfishness. a bit of a treat for the crowd. He was circumstances."

The reader will feel that Bill should have been met by the curate. Alas! "As Donodhu, driven to it, gave a downward swing of his arm he ducked, twisted, leaped into the air and the crowd heard just one thud without quite seeing how it was achieved. Donodhu, taken unawares by a trick, had left his head unguarded, and Bill Donno's fist had crashed accurately into the objective-the space just below his Poetic justice was nowhere. "With an unconscious moan of shame as well as pain. Donodhu put both hands to his face and staggered back. standing of dogs and cats. "She put She felt the inadequacy of the

time was permitted to have an advantage. Kathy must have looked very story proceeds with plenty of dash and unpublished letters by Gen. Warren and well on this occasion. "Her blue black vigor.

hair was coiled up and stabbed with a Capitalists with their nefarious He believes that Warren and Vincent shining cut steel ornament and she schemes are taking the place of the exwore a full length black dress cut low tinct Indians and buffalo in tales of the at the throat so as to give a glimpse wild West. The plot of A. W. Chisto secure his object.

He utilizes the common craving for and company, Boston.)
sensation to combat the equally common demand for prepared foods in neat mon demand for prepared foods in neat packages. His object is to alarm, and New York.) of her ivory tinted bosom." The curate holm's "Precious Waters" (Doubleday, A description of "The Roman Curia was so intent upon Kathy that he did Page and Company) turns on the ef- as It Now Exists," such as the Rev. not notice that Bill had seized upon a lorts of a community of call sorts; whether he can light but formidable weapon. "Mind!" ranchmen in the dry belt to keep a raileried Kathy. Too late, in the melodical road and land company from cutting necessary to Catholics on account of the convince any one that his statements of the water on which they depend for changes introduced by Pope Pius X.'s are wholly true or to the point is anin his grasp, had reached him. The attractive young women and various value to all readers, however, because chair, a light one, but swung with pleasing minor characters; he makes the but we are happy to note that he came book is well written.

light when she slipped out through the length by Anna Chapin Ray in thoughts and of her: "He had always teresting story. thought of Kathy as over fra! in frame, slight to the point of physical delicacy.

And she was not! Her hips were Cigars," is published in a small volume but when she had challenged the curate slight.

generous romance from the slums. He induces the hero after the collapse of has an unfailing eye for the glamour that is in those lowly and much studied the right thing. No fault can be found

The American Woman.

It is a remarkable book that Robert pitilessly true photograph of a very which the hero gets is wholly unintelcommon type of American girl, with ligible. enough analysis of her motives and deas to allow of no mistake on the ple is told by a small boy in Margaret from making an effort to earn their own ings.

phantoms. Others have tried their hand at her incidentally. Mr. Herrick here shows her as she is, through her acts rather than her thoughts. Her Chicago getting themselves thumped by the environment and her personal charm are purely arbitrary, but his heroine will be recognized in every school and every church throughout the land, at least in the towns and cities. Her aspiration to better herself socially, her instinct for the things and the persons that can assist her, her ruthlessness in attaining her ends and disregard of others, as well as the good natured and mused tolerance with which she is helped along by persons who see through

intensely selfish and extravagant, but the parties concerned.

In "New Lives for Old" (Small, Mayin this is the discussion of sex, which abroad in the slums is permitted to author emphasizes by rather blunt lansuffer the same sort of preventable and guage. It is something of a shock to find We read how Bill Donno, the pro- after all is one variation in the type. fessional pugilist, struck Mr. Donodhu, In the French episodes Mr. Herrick the curate. Bill may be described as wanders somewhat from his theme, rather worthless, but he was fond of while those in New York are pretty his foster sister Kathy, one of those commonplace; he has to fill in his heroouriously lovely heroines whom Mr. ine's time in some way, to be sure, but Halifax is accustomed to summon into satire of recent events is pretty cheap his stories, a daughter of the slums in-deed, but delicately sensitive as well as beautiful, and possessed with a pas-troubles enough, but the author seems sion for bathing. Bill felt, in his not uncertain as to what he will make of too luminous way, that the curate ought her. She may have grown into the unnot to be running after Kathy. Ac- derstanding and appreciation of her huscordingly, as the curate stood before band's art, but the dramatic handling of "Bill Donno suddenly lowered his the situation at his death seems much head and ran full tilt at him, as if to above the type of "good woman" that butt the breath from his body at the Mr. Herrick has been depicting, and her Doubtless the curate would withdrawal from society shows strength have "kneed" his assailant, as the books of character. For a moment it

With the return to Chicago the book not out for 'points'; he recognized that ends as brilliantly as it began. The story in a clean set-to at close quarters the of the heroine's commercial venture, ments on them philosophically, occato guess what they are coming to.

Some New Fiction.

should, and for a moment all was a thirsty tale in "The Devil's Admiral" merciful mist." Kathy's treatment of (Doubleday Page and Company). It the bump that resulted was hardly tells of the exploit of a plausible and aside scientific, whatever may be the under- wholly unprincipled pirate, who gets his gang aboard a tramp steamer which for all that enter into the polemics of illustrations and color plates. her fingers to her tongue and conveyed has some gold aboard at Manila, takes the civil war, has been prepared by Dow, as is well known, is an ardent the moisture to the swelling several possession of the ship, dumps the crew ministration and said that she would exterminates his own gang in order to tysburg, July 2, 1863" (The Neale Pubrun and buy a green shade. The curate have the treasure all to himself. The lishing Company, New York). The auwould not permit this. He called upon narrator is a war correspondent, a pas-heaven to bless her as she dropped a senger, who aids in folling the pirate Eighty-third Pennsylvania Volunteers. and tells a vivid and consistent story, serving that day as brigade bugler with Bill was but a child in the curate's Blood is shed lavishly, only three per-, Gen. Strong Vincent. He first gives the hands when the latter got a grip on sons being left alive at the end; the account of the fight in the historians', him. Nevertheless Bill for a second pirate and his accomplice are pic- then the Confederate and Union official

not notice that Bill had seized upon a forts of a community of exemplary bered Mr. Sankey. "Bill Donno, with a irrigation. The author enlists the readsilent bound and the chair poised high er's sympathy in the manly hero, two vicious force, crashed down on the back fight interesting, though there may be of his head. He sank sideways to the more violence than is necessary, and bits floor without a sound or struggle and of irrelevant melodrama are thrown in. there face upward." That was The obstinate engineer remains rather serious business for the curate, pulsive in spite of his conversion. The

The philandering of a middle aged We have mentioned Kathy's passion spinster, who ventures on an ocean trip bathing. It was midnight and moon- without a chaperon, is related at great window of her slum home in Roper's Board the Beatic" (Little, Brown and Row and proceeded to "a waste dotted Company). Though she had been very with natural water ways, old wooden exclusive before, she succeeds in mixbridges and swamps, with here and ing pretty thoroughly with the ship's politan Press, New York), may be obthere at the outset an overgrown pave-ment or crumbling wall that repre-That, to be sure, lasts for 150 closely sented the tomb of some daring jerry printed pages. She keeps up two vigorbuilder's designs." Surprising that she ous flirtations besides making the acshould have had the purpose to go in quaintance of a chief steward of re- into their authenticity; some are of Growing," by Albert E. Wilkinson. Nevertheless we find her markable social standing. passing through mists tinctured with dering in England and Belgium for a interest, but a good many are out of novice what to do, from the selection odors of fungi and behold her presently while she returns on the same ship and ready for a swim in a "winding old makes up her mind as to which man uniform length, which suggests their the marketing of the fruit. Like creek now called a canal." The curate she shall take. The author writes well use as "filling up" matter for country all such books, it awakes hopes was present; he had secretly followed but takes an unconsciousble amount of newspapers. It is to be read of him and his space to tell a trivial and not very in-

An amusing short story by Rupert roundly expanded," and so forth. Never by Desmond Fitz Gerald, New York. shall we venture to appropriate much The author demonstrates an obvious of what is copyrighted and surprising, truth in paradoxes, but the story is very

to catch her, and when he had caught | Pleasantly written though it is and her, and when he had commanded, "Kiss attractive as a few of the people are, me!" and she had obeyed, it is recorded "Success," by Una L. Silberrad (Hodthat he gave her his coat and said to der and Stoughton; George H. Doran yourself with it-hard as Company), hardly justifies the abanyou can-all over-before you dure to donment of the realm of romance by put your things on." She persisted for the author for the depiction of modern come time in thinking herself unworthy life. The heroine has acquired the of him, but they were married at the ability to see the right thing through examining the artistic objects in her Mr. Hallfax extracts interesting and father's old furniture business; she his hopes to train himself to do only with the thesis, nor with the charming if rather elaborate descriptions and the lifelike minor characters. The author has, however, extraordinary ideas about business methods, and equally strange Herrick has written in "One Woman's ideas about inventions; these render Life" (Macmillans), perhaps the best absurd some of the most earnest porand boldest thing he has done yet; a tions of her tale, while the mess into

reader's part. The future historian of Turnbuil's "W. A. G.'s Tale" (Hough-American civilization, if he knows ton Mifflin Company). There are pleasenough and if he can then find the ant descriptions of the country around book, will have in it a clear picture of the Delaware and much of the ingena very large class of twentieth century uous talk that boys are made to use women, the girls whose parents are in modern fiction. The book is illusjust sufficiently well off to keep them trated with apocryphal juvenile draw-

Even if she had held to a single plot In one form she was observed a gen- Natalie Sumner Lincoln would have eration ago by Henry James as Daisy found it difficult to make the heroine Miller, but he was unfortunately turned of "The Lost Despatch" (Appletons) aside from studying her evolution and other than repellent. The struggle of a

lying deliberately, and to President Linyoung woman and for which the reader

A series of misfortunes befall a sin-

The best part of the book is the beginning, the story of the heroine's rise Carleton extends to the land the idea slight anecdotes and with his own views on various subjects. and career in Chicago; the only fault developed in a previous book, that Americans should employ some of the qualiis essential to the study, but which the ties shown by immigranks, such as thrift, industry and disregard of appearances. His hero rapidly develops a rural that the girl marries for love, but that Utopla in the neighborhood of Boston; converted into a harmonious coopera- stock of geographical knowledge. skilled husbandmen wrest from Massa-chusetts soil. Why Mr. Carleton should deny the sociological purpose of the book, or present it as the personal experience of himself or any other man, is His suggestions are sensible enough to stand on their own merits.

Few persons are aware, we fancy, that Molyneux Shuldham was the Admiral in command of the British North American fleet during the year that included the evacuation of Boston and the occupation of New York in the Revolutionary war. His official papers are preserved among the English records and are now published by the Naval History other man would simply fling him, perhaps stun him. He had an expert, effunction is capital fun, if it is bitter, De Vinne Press, under the title "The fective little method of his own in such and the end is fitting. Mr. Herrick in Despatches of Molyneux Shuldham." the main contents himself with pre- edited by Robert Wilden Neeser. The senting the facts and leaving the read- editing has been done with a meticulous er to form his own deductions; he com- care that is entirely out of proportion to the importance or the interest of sionally he preaches a little or gives the documents, few of which seem reasons, but these offences are rare. He worthy of preservation. Shuldham, who has had the courage to show to a large was promoted to Vice-Admiral and number of American women, who are raised to the peerage in that period, likely to read his books, exactly what facts that the editor might have stated they are, how they act and leaves them with some account of what became of him, is usually grumbling and complaining, but occasionally gives some slight information; his inclosures, the reports of others, are somewhat better, and one document, captured by an accident, the For those who like their fiction highly log of the American brig Andrew Doria, Noises were ringing through his brain, seasoned Frederick Ferdinand Moore is really interesting. Most of the papers as Bill Donno had intended they has concocted an artistically blood-print d, however, are the material that print d, however, are the material that lumbers research, the things the investigator must look at only to cast

Oliver Willcox Norton in

Michael Martin, S. J., has written (Benorigin of each of the congregations and other departments, an account of the business each attends to and of the methods used in the past, which are use are the chapters on how to communicate with the Curia and on the forth. As an appendix the full Latin text of the decree is printed.

The principle of selection of the queer collection A. W. Macy has made in "Curious Bits of History" (The Cosmoscure, but the author attains his avowed for them object, which is entertainment. The historical anecdotes and scraps are Library," published by Doubleday, Page thrown in haphazard, with no inquiry and Company, is "Modern Strawberry After wan- venerable antiquity, some are of slight the general run. They are of a nearly and preparation of the ground to

Biographical.

A volume edited by T. N. Taylor and entitled "Sister Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower of Jesus" (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York) is a beautiful example of typography and is decorated with photographs. The object of the book is to speed the beatification of a young French nun who died in 1897. It contains a biographical sketch, followed by the translation of an autoblography, which under the title "L'Histoire d'une Ame" has attracted much attention in France. Appended are reflections and letters by Sister Therese, accounts of miracles attributed to her and a statement of the steps ing houses. The matter is all put already taken to obtain her beatification. Her cause seems to have been taken up vigorously in England. Cardinal Bourne grants indulgences to those who read the book and also to

from the portrayal of American life to the subtle analysis of psychological at least the element of conflict in it, phantoms. Others have tried their hand but here we have the young woman and Walton Company). The only one now living is Jane Addams. The others coln. The author has taken pains to are Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Elizabeth name officials accurately; it would have been in better taste if Lincoln had not been dragged in. The melodramatic Harriet Beecher Stowe, Clara Barton trial is exciting enough, but it involves and Frances E. Willard, a gratifying a crime that has nothing to do with the preponderance of Americans. The articles are eulogistic, as a matter of is not prepared. A confused and dull course, but they do describe what these women accomplished.

A sketch of "Mrs. Fiske" has been gularly unintelligent young man in written by Frank Carlos Griffith (The "What a Man Wishes," by William Neale Publishing Company), which Stanley Hill (The Morningside Press, passes over the Minnie Maddern period New York). The domestic friction be-with undue haste, but gives some idea New York). The domestic friction be-tween two young people equally devoid of the serious period of her career. her, are common characteristics. She of sense and purpose may be realistic, may be a "climber," a "little grafter," but it is uninteresting to any one save to induce Mrs. Fiske to tell him much about herself, so he deals with externals chiefly and fills in with some views on various subjects.

A very entertaining story of adventure is related by Charles Johnson Post in "Across the Andes" (Outing within a year the shiftless farmers that Publishing Company, New York), he could not get to work at first are even if it does not add much to the tive union, and are applying scientific methods to their fields. The author's admiration for the Italian workman chapters; after the author reached finds full scope in describing what those land he was obliged to look out for himself and his business took him into parts of Peru and Bolivia that few travellers visit. He describes the people and the country vividly; he had many interesting and exciting experiences and draws a picture of the forest country that is more impressive than anything we have read of it, talked of philosopher of the day. outside of fiction. The book is illustrated with many sketches. A map, even a rough outline, would have been helpful.

In "The Travels of Ellen Cornish" (W. J. Ham-Smith, London), Dr. Vaughan Cornish intends a memorial to Italy." servations made, outside of those com- Minna G. Cowen. (Fleming H. Revell Comgenerally as his companion, and the obmon to all travellers, are of the scientific pany.)

"The Spirit of American Literature." John matters in which he was interested. They visited Japan together, traversing the United States on the way back and "Women in the Bookbinding Trade." Mary stopping at Niagara. They inspected the Panama Canal twice and made several trips to Jamaica. They were at D. D. (Christopher Sower Company, Phila-Kingston at the time of the earthquake, author. He was particularly active LL. D. (Fleming H. Reveil Company.) with his camera after the Kingston earthquake.

Other Books.

The excellent and inspiring little (Harpers.) manual or "Composition" by Arthur Wesley Dow, now professor of fine arts in the Teachers College of Columbia University, appears in a seventh re-A very interesting volume, a model vised and enlarged edition, with new ward J. clode, New York.) Prof. Dow, as is well known, is an methods, pany.)
admirer of Japanese art and methods.
"A Dream of Blue Roses." Mrs. Hubert overboard, with a few exceptions, and and Defense of Little Round Top, Get- He has applied these to his teaching from the outset. The directions he gives in his "Composition" are always clear and definite. The book is in- Dana Orcutt. (F. G. Browne and Company, structive not only to students of art but to laymen who wish to train their eyes to appreciate art. In its enlarged Cochran. (Fleming H. Revell Company.)
form the book is much improved.
"Brand." Henrik Ibsen, translated by J. form the book is much improved.

method adopted by Alfred W. McCann Ore.) in "Starving America" (F. M. Barton, Cleveland; George H. Doran Company). in "Starving America" (F. M. Barton, Cleveland; George H. Doran Company). He utilizes the common craving for and Company, Boston.)

"Ripostes." Ezra Pound. (Smail, Maynard packages. His object is to alarm, and in that he may succeed with people who are not hardened to the magazine Apostolic constitution. Sapienti consilio, other matter. While there can be no of June, 1908. The book is of marked doubt as to the utility of scientific research on the chemistry of food, and while some conclusions arrived at have served to check the grosser forms of adulteration, little good has been accomplished beyond making many prople vaguely uneasy, by the exaggerations employed to popularize the discoverers and the hasty generalizations of eager investigators. They simply customary forms for petitions and so foster absurd misconceptions about food such as the similar abuse of bacteriological investigations has created about germs. There is some truth in every point that Mr. McCann makes; it is not the whole truth, however, and many of his scares have little ground

A pleasant addition to the "Garden is a practical manual that tells the of great wealth from a small investment, for it is the normal, unhindered development that is described, and the checks from disease, weather and insects take up much less room than they do in real life. The author states that this is the first adequate book on strawberries that has appeared in

twenty-five years. Recent events give timeliness to a little book on "The Law of Commercial Exchanges," by Chester Arthur Legg (Baker, Voorhis and Company, New York). The author begins with brief account of the origin and history of exchanges; he then 'recites the law that applies to them, reviews the court decisions and winds up with an account of their clearclearly, so that the book will be as helpful to members of exchanges as to those engaged in discussing the questions now before the public that relate to them.

The coming of Prof. Henri Bergson those who repeat prayers composed by is the occasion for "A Contribution to a Bibliography of Henri Bergson (Colum-Brief biographies of ten women who bia University Press; Lemcke and S. Tonks. In the way of history they did things in the nineteenth century Buechner) by the Columbia University publish an important two volume "Life Publish and Indiana" by Mrs. Reginald

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him, some dup!!cates, the greater number is of articles and book reviews. There are 438 titles of translations and of articles of him in eleven different tongues, evidence that he is the most

Books Received.

"The City That Was." Stephen Smith.
D., LL. D. (Frank Allaben, New York.) "The Struggle for Christain Truth in aly." Giovanni Luzzi, D. D. (Fleming his wife. She appears in the narrative H. Revell Company.)
generally as his companion, and the ob-

Albert Macy. ((Doubleday, Page and Com-

delphia.) "The Silences of Jesus." Percy A. Alnsworth. (Fleming H. Revetl Company.)
"Religious Unrest and Its Remedy." James

"Social Therapeutics." Stanley M. Bligh. (Henry Frowde, New York.) "Their Choice." Henrietta Dana Skinner. (Benziger Brothers.)
"The Combined Maze." May Sinclair.

"The Mighty Friend." Pierre L'Ermite. Benziger Brothers.)
"New Leaf Mills." William Dean Howells

(Harpers.)
"Mark." Frances Newbold Noyes. (Ed-"The Chequer-Board." Sybil Grant. (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Com

Barclay. (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. "The Madonna of Sacrifice." William

Chicago.) "A Rainbow in the Rain." Jean Carter Fighting the devil with fire is the M. Olberman. (The translator, Portland,

"Amer Vitaque." Oliver Opp-Dyke. (Sher "The Victory of Defeat." Fanny DeGreet

"The Ice Lens." George Frederick Gundel-

finger. (The Shakespeare Press, New York.)
"American Nobility." Pierre de Coulevain,
translated by Alys Hallard. (E. P. Dutton translated to and Company.)
and Company.)
"Pradition." George Middleton. (Henry "Nogi." Stanley Washburn. (Henry Hel

and Company.)
"Fifty Paintings by George Inness." Edited by Elliott Daingerfield. (Frederick Fairchild Sherman, New York.)

"The Increasing Needs of a Nation." J.
Abbott Cantrell. M. D. (R. F. Fenno and
Company, New York.) The River Rhymer." J. Ashby-Sterry. (Charles Scribner's Sons.) "Japan and Its Art." Marcus B. Huish. (B. T. Batsford; Charles Scribner's Sons.)

NEW SCRIBNER BOOKS.

Henry James and Huneker Share Prominence With Price Collier.

Price Collier, Henry James, James Huneker, William T. Hornaday and Linda Hull Larned are among the most notable writers who contribute works of non-fiction to the spring list of Charles Scribner's Sons.

Henry James's book, called "A Small Boy and Others," is concerned with his own childhood and that of his brother, William James. Price Collier's new book is "Germany and the Germans." a presentation of that nation as sharp and clearcut as "England and the Eng-James Huneker contributes "The Pa

thos of Distance," a series of studies of artists, writers and current questions, in his familiar style. The title of Mr Hornaday's book, "Our Vanishing Wild Life: Its Extermination and Preservation," sufficiently explains its nature. Mrs. Larned's book, "The New Hostess of To-day," comprises the substance of day," but it is actually, if not technically, a new work, very much larger than the other and brought thoroughly to date. In the line of art the Scribners pub-

lish another volume in their compact little General History of Art Series, "Art in Egypt," by G. Maspero, Director-General of the Service of Antiquities in Egypt, which has almost 600 illustrations. and "Art Museums and Schools," which contains lectures by G. Stanley Hall, Kenyon Cox, Stockton Axson and Oliver have been prepared by Elmer C. Adams Library. Of the 68 titles attributed to of John Paul Jones," by Mrs. Reginald de Koven; two volumes containing the letters of Gen. Meade, the victor of Gettysburg; a new volume in their original Narratives of Farly American History Series, called "The Journal of Dankers and Sluyter," and "Missionary Explorers Among the American In dians," by Mary G. Humphreys.

Books that have a bearing on the current events are Frederic C. Howe's "European Cities at Work" and a new edition of Charles W. Furlong's book The Gateway to the Sahara," which contains new matter concerning the Italian-Turkish War and the Italian occupation of Tripoli, and "Monarchial in Germany," by Elmer Roberts. In the way of plays they ar bringing out a volume of the plays of Astor Place & 8th Street Bjornstjerne Bjornson, which contains

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